

Industrial Firsts

The Pioneering Push Behind Modern Industrial Music

DJ ShadowBox

Before we begin, let me preface with a brief explanation, as I foresee a crass backlash from this article. This retrospect will address the electronic forms of rock, metal, and death metal and not address the harsher forms of Industrial dance music. Although some may consider the following artists to be "Post-Industrial", for the sake of argument they will be referred to as "Industrial". Homage is paid to Throbbing Gristle, Laibach, Einstürzende Neubauten, as well as all the forerunners of "Industrial" music. Now with that being said, here are the worthy originators of this controversial genre.

Industrial Rock



Although it included synthpop elements, the 1989 debut release of "Pretty Hate Machine" secures Nine Inch Nails position as the first Industrial Rock band. Founded in 1988 by Trent Reznor, NIN was at the forefront of dark, electronic, sample-ridden rock. With their second album, "The Downward Spiral" (1994), Nine Inch Nails ventured into even darker and heavier realms.

"To me, rock music was never meant to be safe. I think there needs to be an element of intrigue, mystery, subversiveness. Your parents should hate it."

- Trent Reznor

Industrial Metal

MINISTRY

Founded in 1981 by Al Jourgensen, Ministry started in the new wave synthpop genre. Over a six year period, they developed into a dark, hardcore industrial dance group. With the 1988 release of "The Land of Rape and Honey", Ministry's metal elements developed with the addition of heavy, distorted guitars. Only a few tracks featured this guitar ingredient, but this album became their preamble to a full-fledged metal sound. It is with their 1989 release, "The Mind is a Terrible Thing to Taste", that Ministry easily claims their seat as first Industrial Metal band. Subsequent albums, including "Psalm 69", only solidified their mark.

"Ministry is just ZZ Top with technology"

- Al Jourgensen

Industrial Death Metal



Lesser known, but just as deserving of recognition, is Furnace. Founded in 1992 by DJ Resin (an alias of one Brian Artwick), and featured members of underground Death Metal act, Absu. The 1992 vinyl 7" release of "Cremated Souls" unleashed a sample laden mix of crushing guitars, brutal vocals, and hyper-sonic electro drum patterns. With this, Furnace effortlessly takes the title of first Industrial Death Metal and/or Grindcore band.

